Conversion of NH No. 33 into Four Lane in Jharkhand

†1128 SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the Highways in Jharkhand which have been permitted to be developed under National Highways Development Project (NHDP);

(b) the status of progress for development and upgradation of these Highways; and

(c) the progress made with regard to the scheme for converting the National Highway No. 33 in Jharkhand into four lane and by when it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) National Highways No. 2 from Bihar border to West Bengal Border having total length of 192 Kms. in Jharkhand is included for up-gradation and development to four lane facility under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase I. Out of this, work in 171 Kms. has been completed. National Highway No.33 from Barhi to Jamshedpur *via* Hazaribagh and Ranchi having a total length of 265 Kms. is included for up-gradation and development to four lane standard on BOT (Toll) basis under NHDP Phase III. Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for four laning of Barhi-Hazaribagh-Ranchi Section has been completed and the same is in progress for Ranchi-Jameshepur Section. Four laning of Hazaribagh-Ranchi Section has been included in NHDP Phase-IIIA. NHDP Phase-IIIA is targeted to be completed by December, 2009 Balance section of National Highway No. 33 from Jamshedpur to Baharagora is not included in NHDP Phase-Ill and its four laning will depend upon availability of funds and inter-se-priority of work.

Construction of overbridges in Assam

1129. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether double-lane road construction project is going to start its work on the North-bank of river Brahmaputra on NH-52 from Baihata Charali to Jonai;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the technical measures that are proposed to be taken to strengthen the portion of road under NH-52 between North Lakhimpur to Jonai to combat the flashflood rolls down from Arunachal Pradesh hill areas; and

(c)-whether there is any proposal to construct overbridges above railway tracks in Assam at Changsari-Pahumara-Ahotguri falling on National Highways in Assam areas for the safety of roadways passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The stretch from Baihata Charali to North Lakhimpur (K.m. 0-345) of NH-52 is already double lane and the stretch from North Lakhimpur to Jonai of NH-52 (Km. 345—510) has been approved by the Government under Phase 'A' of Special Accelerated Road Development Programme—North East (SARDP - NE) for double laning. Preparations of detailed project reports have been undertaken by the Border Roads Organisation. The work has not started. The whole work is targeted for completion by March, 2009.

(b) Raising of NH-52 in vulnerable sections alongwith culverts and bridges have been included in the detailed project reports with necessary protective measures. The channelisation of rivers is to be done by the Water Resources Development (WRD) of Government of Assam.

(c) Yes, Sir. Over bridge above the railway tracks in Assam at Changsari, Pahumara and Ahotguri, along with 4-laning of East West Corridor under NHDP Phase-ll programme would be constructed for which the civil works have already been awarded.

Sea transport system in North-East region

1130. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state whether Government have any programme for connecting the North-East area with sea transport system through Brahmaputra river inland waterways to promote trade and commerce of North-East with rest of India and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): For promoting trade and commerce of the North-East with rest of India and abroad, the river Brahmaputra from Sadiya to Dhubri (891 Km.) has been declared as a National Waterway and it is connected with the sea transport system at Kolkata/Haldia Port through Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route consistng of waterways of Bangladesh and India.